

Chinese Missions on the Pacific Coast

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SINCE the large majority of the Chinese coming to this country enter by San Francisco, it is here that the largest work must be done in bringing them to Christ.

The Chinese men are usually reached through their desire to acquire the English language. Night schools and special teachers give opportunities for the gospel story and real religious instruction.

Chinese women are, if anything, more difficult to reach than men. Women missionaries, both American and Chinese, call upon them first in a friendly way, giving them flowers or little favors. When pleasant relations are established, if they desire to be taught to read, lessons are begun and then comes the reading of the Bible and prayer, and baptism often follows. The children are reached through the schools and kindergartens, and great hope centers around this work.

All these activities are carried on by the various denominations. The Methodist Episcopal Church has for its working plant a church building in which are conducted the usual gospel services, with a large Sunday-school and Epworth League and a flourishing night school. It reaches a large number of families and many young men are feeling its influence.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society has its beautiful Oriental Home, where Chinese girls are received into the loving care and training of Christian workers in preparation for useful lives among their own people.

Not only have we the Home with all it stands for of efficiency in bringing Christ into the lives of those who come under its influence, but radiating from it are forces of power.

We have mission schools, where the English language is taught through the sixth grade. We have three grades in the school for the Chinese language. We have a kindergarten, the largest in the city. We have American and Chinese missionaries who visit families and get the children into the schools and Sunday-schools. Similar work is carried on in many of the larger towns in the state. These are but the means to the great end we desire.

Interdenominational efforts are proving successful. The Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association with all their departments of work are attracting and uplifting many young people.

"The Standing Committee of American Workers Among Orientals" is an organization that has for its object the carrying forward of missionary work with the greatest amount of efficiency and the least amount of waste in effort and money. Where two missions are being carried on in a small community with only support for one, the strongest or best equipped is continued and the other closed. No new work can be started without the approval of this committee, so that overlapping of effort will not occur.

The scattering of the Chinese through the East is putting some of the responsibility of Christianizing them upon other hearts. There are many missions in cities where the Chinese have gathered in numbers, but there are too many who are left with no Christian help. Since almost all the Chinese in this country, for business or education, expect to return to China, our opportunity for spreading the gospel in the best possible way is tremendous.

It is said by the Chinese that the very best missionary is the Chinese man or woman who has been educated and trained in America.

We are sometimes embarrassed at the lack

of interest taken in this work by Christian people. The wife of a Chinese official who had been for some years in Washington returned to China. A missionary calling upon her spoke of the power of Jesus shown in the lives of those in the Christian land.

The lady responded—"I think you are mistaken. I was there a number of years and no one spoke to me of Jesus, or recommended the Christian religion. He is not esteemed in your country as you think."

The proofs that these efforts really bring results are so many that one is at a loss which to cite.

Attendance at a prayer or testimony meeting is very convincing.

Our Chinese Methodists in San Francisco have organized a native missionary society and carry on a mission in their home province of Kwantung.

The women and girls have their own society, and gather funds and support a school in connection with the mission. Years ago one of the girls, saved in our Home, married a converted Chinese man, and they agreed that when they had saved \$3,000 they would go back to China and start an independent mission. This they did, and it is a power for good. A daughter of this couple became a physician and when our Oriental Home was built sent \$200 to name a room for her mother.

A son is in the University of California preparing for educational work in China. He has charge of the mission in Berkeley, preaching and teaching.

Lou Chow, who was trained and educated in the Oriental Home and converted there, is now the wife of the pastor of the Chinese church in San Francisco. She is a remarkable woman, a most successful missionary, and her kindergarten and Sunday-school class prove her ability to get into vital touch with the mothers and their children.

Caroline Lee was rescued from slavery when a child. Showing unusual quickness in her school work, she was encouraged to continue

until she had graduated from high school and then the normal.

For five years she taught in our mission school, and was highly successful. Then the National Young Women's Christian Association, recognizing her ability, asked for her, and so a larger field of usefulness is opened for one of our best workers. After training in preparation for special work, she will take on the duties of the Young Women's Christian Association secretary in Canton, China.

There is a Chinese problem; there is a solution: and the proofs prove it.

WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

150 Fifth Ave., New York City

50 or less, 6c.; 50 to 100, 10c.